MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question -- 303.

Assistance to Assam from Social Security Fund

*303. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released financial assistance to Assam from Social Security Fund;

(b) if so, the details of assistance released to the State during the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Because, there is no such fund that is administered by the Government of India.

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Sir, there are a lot of killings by the extremist organizations in the country, including Assam. In most cases, it has been observed that the head of the family dies and the family becomes helpless. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any such fund by which such families, where the head of the family dies, could be rehabilitated, and be given some sort of social security through financial help?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, as I shared with the hon. Member in my reply to the original question, there is no such fund that is administered by the Ministry of Finance. However, the Ministry of Social Welfare does have a National Social Assistance Programme, as also a National Family Benefit Scheme. If the hon. wants to have greater details about these programmes or schemes, the right Ministry, from which he should enquire, is the Ministry of Social Welfare.

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Sir, this is not connected only with the killings by the extremists, but there are a lot of people who are socially insecure and goes out of the social mainstream. Particularly, the people like the drug addicts, street children, etc. do not have any

social security. Let us try to understand that; and a chance should be given to them to join the mainstream of the society. They need some sort of assistance through which they can start their life. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any such proposal.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, what the hon. Member is trying to say, in the context of Assam and the North-East, is that misled youth are to be drawn back into the mainstream, and whether the Ministry of Finance have a scheme for encouraging that process. The State Government is involved in this, there are other Ministries which are involved in this. Directly, the Ministry of Finance does not have this responsibility.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that no such fund is administered by the Government of India. What is the difficulty in providing for such a fund? There is a lot of demand from the destitute people. A lot of people are finding it very difficult to have two square meals a day for want of money, and they are in dire need of the Government's help. So, what is the difficulty in setting up such a fund to help them?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I have to repeat what I said earlier that there is no difficulty in providing for a fund. There is already a fund, which is called the National Social Assistance Programme, and there is the National Family Pension Scheme. They are being administered by the Ministry of Social Welfare. The Finance Ministry's role comes in providing budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Social Welfare. They deal with two the Schemes of Old Age Pension and Family Benefit, etc., and the State Governments deal with subject. The Ministry of Finance is not a Social Welfare Ministry. The Ministry of Finance does provide assistance to the Ministry of Social Welfare, but we don't directly deal with the subject.

Storage capacity of reservoirs

*304. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the storage capacity of major reservoirs of the country has come down drastrically due to excessive silting;

(b) if so, the details of the storage capacity of various reservoirs at the time of inception and now with special reference to Andhra Pradesh;